

# DEVARSHI ROY CHOUDHURY

## *A Short Biography*



**Devarshi Roy Choudhury** alias *Ray Devarshi Gangopadhyaya Mazumdar Chaudhuri* (দেৰশি রায় চোধুৱী) (Born on 6 September 1974) is one of the 35th descendants of the illustrious Sabarna Roy Choudhury family of Bengal. He is a Historiographer, Educator, Writer, Cultural Activist and Philanthropist. He is one of the mastermind and petitioners behind the world famous and historic Kolkata Birthday Case, whereby the Calcutta High Court on 16 May, 20013 in a landmark verdict declared that British agent Job Charnock cannot be regarded as the founder of Calcutta / Kolkata and 24 August is not the city's birthday.

### **Early Life:**

Devarshi was born to Late Dilip Roy Choudhury, an electrical engineer and Bijali Roy Choudhury, a pious lady. He started his schooling at the age of four at Sishu Niketan, a famous primary school of Barisha. Then he joined Orient Day School for his secondary studies. He graduated from Ashutosh College and then completed Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management and Diploma in Business Administration. Being descendants of Saint Kamdev Brahmachari, Laksmikanta Roy Choudhury, Swami Jogananda and Pronob Roy (The Wizard of Bengali Lyrics), from early childhood, Devarshi developed a keen interest on history, heritage and culture of the land. Being a member of the Sabarna Roy Choudhury family, Roy Choudhury, from his early days, witnessed family festivals, rituals and rites and these traditional ties facilitated his interest in old manuscripts, coins, stamps and artifacts.

### **Career:**

Devarshi started his career as an educator in 1996 which is still his passion. He loves educating school children not only with texts but also with a motive to develop their inner-self as honest and true citizens having knowledge of traditions, history and heritage without which, he believes - "life is incomplete". He also writes for web portals, newspapers and magazines. He is an independent research scholar engaged in studies revolving a wide range of subjects.

### **Major Works:**

#### *Research Oriented Books-*

1. Bara Bari - The Abode of the Saborno Ray Choudhury family at Barisha (ISBN NO 81-88105-01-5) (Co Author).
2. Quiz Katha – Manna Publications (ISBN No 81-87648-57-0).

*Published Research Articles-*

1. Borsapanjikar Itibritto – Bartaman Patrika Sunday Supplementary, 19.04.2009.
2. Achena Chiner Kotha – Pratyahik Khobor Sunday Supplementary, 24.10.2010.
3. Til Theke Taal – Pratyahik Khobor Sunday Supplementary.

*Other Works-*

1. Editor - Bangiya Sabarna Katha Kalishetra Kalikatah by Bhabani Roy Choudhury, Manna Publication (ISBN 81-87648-36-8).
2. Editor- Saptarshi, Heritage Hand Written Magazine of the Sabarna Family.
3. Publisher- Sabarna Barta, Tabloid of Sabarna Roy Choudhury Paribar Parishad.

**Achievements:**

His greatest achievement is the Kolkata Birthday Case (W.P 1484/ 2001), the famous and historic court case at Calcutta High Court in which the court declared that Kolkata was not founded by Job Charnock and 24 August is not the city's birthday. It is he who helped in establishing the truth about the origin and development of Kolkata. It was like a second freedom struggle where he proved before the world that Kolkata was never a British creation but its origin was out of a natural process which purely involved the natives' contribution and that of the Sabarna Roy Choudhury family, the administrators of the land from 1608-1757. Roy Choudhury has also tried to focus and explore the history, heritage and culture of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal and highlight the socio-religious and cultural relationships between those nations and India. For his contribution towards the society, he has received several honours and felicitations.

Devarshi is, no doubt, a historiographer with a vision and in the words of Unity Ishrat Jahan (Bangladesh), Devarshi is truly "*Kolkatar Raja*".

Presently, he is the Secretary and Spokesperson of Sabarna Roy Choudhury Paribar Parishad and Curator of Sabarna Sangrahashala, the only family museum of its kind in Bengal.

### **Reference List:**

- Bangiya Sabarna Katha Kalishetra Kalikata by Bhabani Roy Choudhury, Manna Publication. ISBN 81-87648-36- 8
- <http://www.untold.in/a-family-against-an-empire/>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/player/b05xxc06>
- <http://www.kolkataonwheels.com/evolution/evolution. php>
- <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/782056/>
- <http://archives.anandabazar.com/archive/1030517/index.htm>
- <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/job-charnock-not-the-founder-of-kolkata-calcutta-high-court/1/206368.html>
- [http://www.telegraphindia.com/1151015/jsp/calcutta/story\\_48090.jsp#.V-K3C9I2u1s](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1151015/jsp/calcutta/story_48090.jsp#.V-K3C9I2u1s)
- <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/variety/revisiting-the-rich-legacy-of-bonedi-bari/article3985055.ece>
- Older than the founder The Week, June 1, 2003
- <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/job-charnocks-place-in-history-as-founder-of-kolkata-questioned/1/219777.html>
- Bartaman Patrika dated 09.08.2015, 14.8.2016
- <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/india/1430454/Calcutta-was-not-founded-by-Briton-court-rules.html>
- [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/3034419.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/3034419.stm)
- <http://www.sharodinfo.com/galleries/DurgaPujaAll/SabarnaRoyChoudhuryFamily/SabarnaRoyChoudhuryFamily.htm>

### **External Links:**

- <http://www.devarshi.faithweb.com>
- <http://www.sabarna.faithweb.com>
- <http://www.kamdev.faithweb.com>
- <http://devarshirc.wixsite.com/myworld>
- <https://www.facebook.com/DevarshiRoyChoudhuryTheHistoriographerWithAVision/>
- <http://www.authorsden.com/visit/author.asp?AuthorID=%2097342>
- <http://laksmikanta.tripod.com/>

